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SOURCE Bashkimi.CHARGES YUGOSLAVIA DELAYS REPARATIONS TO ALBANIA

Tirana, 17 July (Albanian Telegraphic Agency) -- A note forwarded recently by the Albanian Legation in Belgrade to the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs charges that Yugoslavia has been delaying the shipment of German reparations to Albania. The note describes the situation as follows:

On 10 June 1950 the Albanian State Bank established a credit of 106,123.93 dollars in the Chase National Bank in New York in favor of the People's Bank in Belgrade. This credit was to cover expenses incurred in the transportation of reparations materials from Germany to Yugoslavia in 1947 and 1948. Although these materials were to have been forwarded to Albania, they were kept in Yugoslavia arbitrarily by the Yugoslav government. The credit was established in full conformity with the conditions demanded by the Yugoslav government in its telegram of 9 June 1950 from the People's Bank to the Albanian State Bank.

The Yugoslav government then made a new demand that the Albanian State Bank set a time limit. This had not been done as the Yugoslav Reparations Commission would not commit itself as to when it would transport the materials, despite insistent and repeated demands by the Albanian Commission for such a commitment. This demand was made by the Yugoslav government with the sole purpose of delaying the departure of the SS Nikola Vapzarov, which was lying at anchor in Split Harbor loaded with the reparations materials destined for Albania, thus incurring great additional expenses for the Albanian government.

The Albanian government met this further condition, although it was not proposed directly but through the Chase National Bank in New York. Then on 16 June 1950 the Yugoslav Reparations Commission in Split officially asked the Albanian Commission to cancel certain conditions established in connection with the credit, involving the presentation of documents.

Despite repeated protests from the Albanian Legation in Belgrade and the Albanian Commission to the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Yugoslav Reparations Commission, the Yugoslav government did not order the Vapzarov to sail from Split until noon of 22 June 1950.

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On 23 June at 1730 hours, after the Vapzarov had sailed out of Split Harbor with its papers in order, an armed Yugoslav gunboat stopped it, threatening to fire if the ship did not stop.

Inasmuch as the Yugoslav government caused the shipment of reparations materials to be delayed for 11 days, the Albanian government holds the Yugoslav government responsible for the damages caused by the blockade of the Vapzarov and demands that the Yugoslav government pay the Albanian government an indemnity of 6,160 dollars through the Chase National Bank in New York by 15 July 1950

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